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(52) Gas permeable contact lens and method and materials for its manufacture.

(57) A polymer is prepared by forming a mixture of 3-methacryloxypropyltrimethylsiloxy silane, methacrylic acid, cyclohexylmethacrylate, 2-hydroxypropylmethacrylate, m,p-styrylethyltrimethoxysilane, methyl methacrylate and a cross linker. A polymerization initiator is added to the mixture, and UV or thermal energy is supplied so that the mixture polymerizes to form a polymer that is transparent, hard, machinable and oxygen permeable. The polymer is cut into lenses, and the lenses are treated with acetyl chloride or another suitable chemical so that their surfaces become hydrophilic. The result is oxygen-permeable, hydrophilic, daily and extended-wear, hard contact lenses.

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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
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| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. CL.4) |
| A | US-A-3 808 178 (N.G. GAYLORD) * Claims * ----- | 1 | C 08 F 30/08 G 02 B 1/04 |
| TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. CL.4) | | | |
| C 08 F G 02 B | | | |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search | Date of completion of the search | Examiner | |
| THE HAGUE | 02-10-1989 | GLIKMAN J-F.M. | |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS | | T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document | |
| X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document | | | |



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Description

GAS PERMEABLE CONTACT LENS AND METHOD AND MATERIALS FOR ITS MANUFACTURE

This invention relates to contact lenses and, more particularly, to a novel and highly-effective daily-wear and extended-wear contact lens and to a method and material for its manufacture.

5 There is a great need for a contact lens that can be worn safely, comfortably and continuously for an extended time, for example one or two months, and that is inexpensive enough to be discarded after that time. It is essential that such a lens be highly oxygen permeable, since the pupil of the eye has no blood circulation and extracts the oxygen needed by its cells directly from the atmosphere. Ideally, such a lens should be hard so that it can correct for astigmatism. In order to be comfortable for the wearer, however, the lens must also be hydrophilic; that is, the contact angle of an air-water interface with a surface of the lens must be small.

10 In conventional practice, measures taken to increase oxygen permeability increase contact angle, so that the lens becomes uncomfortable, and measures taken to reduce contact angle reduce oxygen permeability, so that the lens cannot be worn continuously for an extended period. This trade-off has thus far defeated efforts to produce an extended-wear contact lens having all of the desired properties.

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OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 An object of the invention is to remedy the problems outlined above and in particular to provide a novel, oxygen-permeable, hydrophilic, extended-wear, hard contact lens and a method and easily-machinable inexpensive material for its manufacture.

In accordance with one aspect of the invention, a method of making a plastic material for a contact lens comprises the steps of:

25 A mixture is prepared comprising initiators and at least one polymerizable silicone monomer selected from the group consisting of

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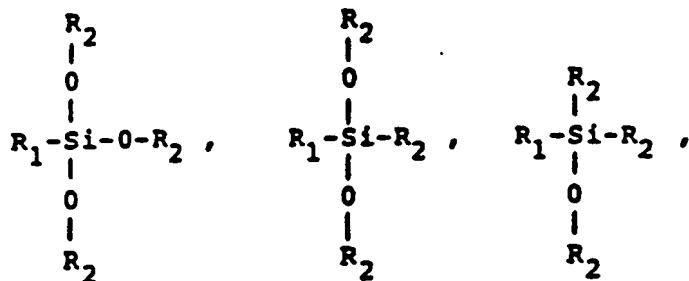
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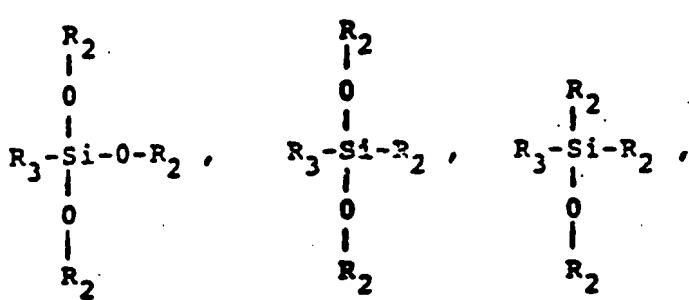
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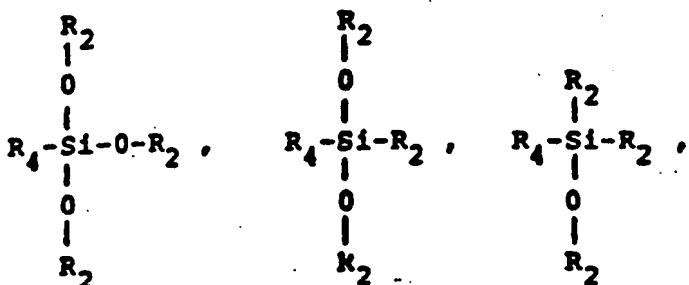
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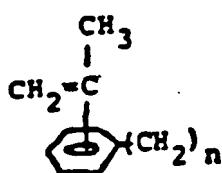


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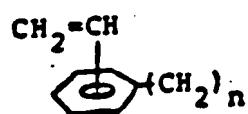
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and mixtures thereof, where
 R_1 is selected from the group consisting of



and



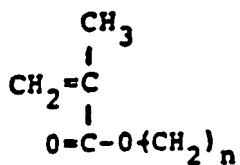
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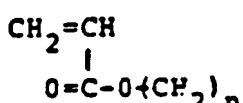
where $n = 1$ to 6, and mixtures thereof,
 R_2 is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a saturated cyclic group and a benzene ring, and mixtures thereof,

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R_3 is selected from the group consisting of



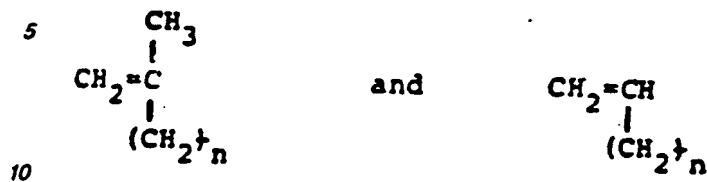
and



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where n = 1 to 6, and mixtures thereof, and
 R_4 is selected from the group consisting of

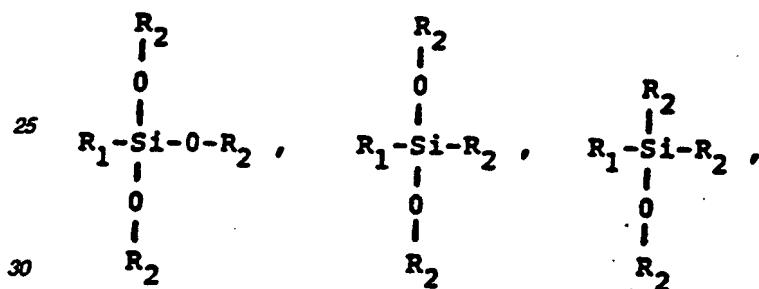


where n = 1 to 6, and mixtures thereof.

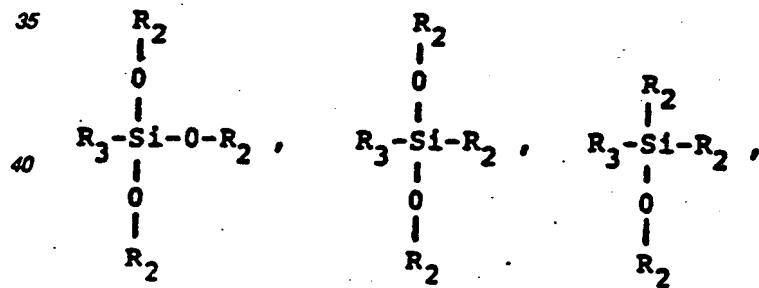
Energy is supplied to the mixture so that the mixture polymerizes to form a polymer that is transparent, hard, machinable and oxygen permeable.

15 In accordance with a second aspect of the invention, a polymer for making a contact lens comprises 0% to 30% by weight of a hydrophilic agent, 0.1% to 5% by weight of a cross linker, 0.05% to 1.0% by weight of a polymerization initiator, and 2% to 94.85% by weight of at least one polymerizable silicone monomer selected from the group consisting of

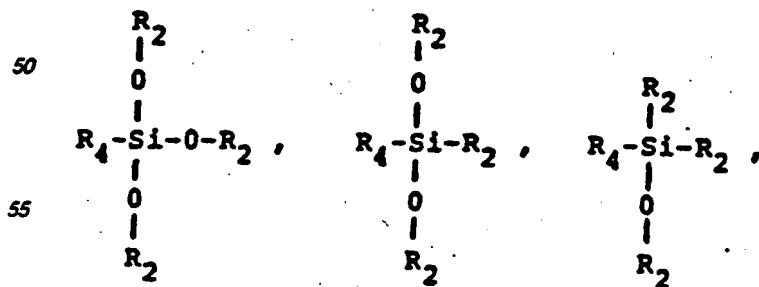
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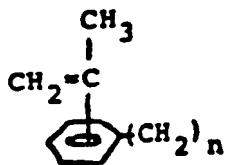


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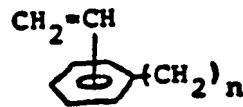


and mixtures thereof, where
 R_1 is selected from the group consisting of

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and

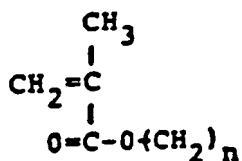


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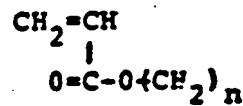
when $n = 1$ to 6, and mixtures thereof.

R_2 is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a saturated cyclic group and a benzene ring, and mixtures thereof.

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of



and



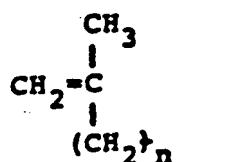
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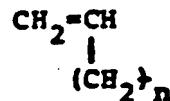
where $n = 1$ to 6, and mixtures thereof, and

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of

25



and



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where $n = 1$ to 6, and mixtures thereof,

the polymer being transparent, hard, machinable and oxygen permeable.

In accordance with a third aspect of the invention, a contact lens is made of a polymer comprising 0% to 30% by weight of a hydrophilic agent, 0.1% to 5% by weight of a cross linker, 0.05% to 1.0% by weight of a polymerization initiator, and 2% to 94.85% by weight of a polymerizable silicone monomer selected from the group consisting of

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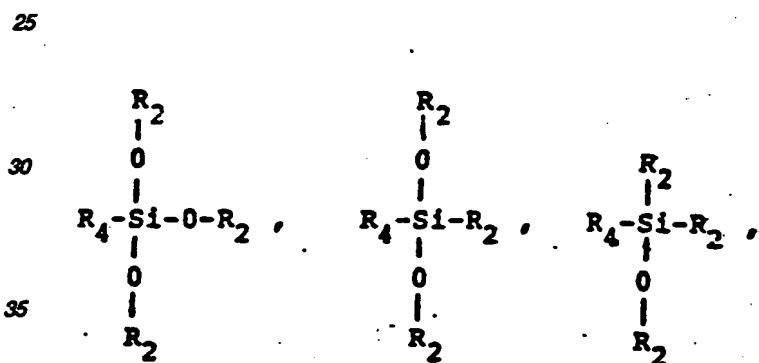
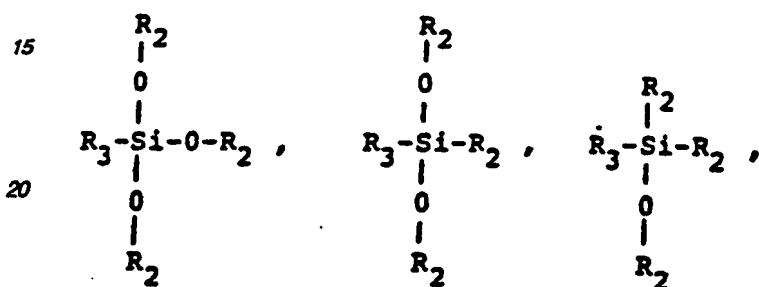
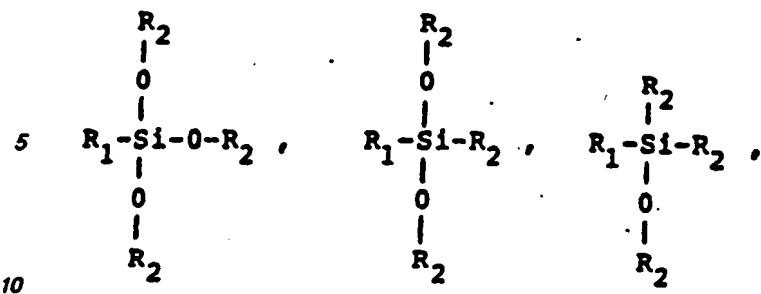
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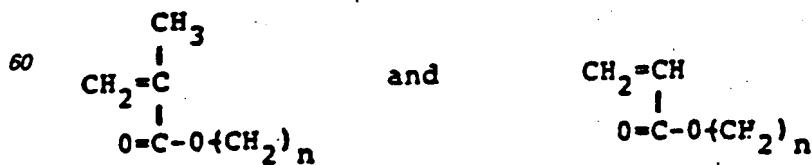
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40 and mixtures thereof, where
 R_1 is selected from the group consisting of



when $n = 1$ to 6, and mixtures thereof.
 R_2 is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a saturated cyclic group and a benzene ring, and mixtures thereof,
 55 R_3 is selected from the group consisting of



where $n = 1$ to 6, and mixtures thereof, and
R₄ is selected from the group consisting of



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10

where $n = 1$ to 6, and mixtures thereof,
the lens being transparent, hard, machinable and oxygen permeable.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

A better understanding of the objects, features, and advantages of the invention can be gained from the following description of the preferred embodiments thereof, in conjunction with the appended figures of the drawings, wherein:

20

- Fig. 1 is a plan view of a contact lens constructed in accordance with the invention;
Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken along the line 2-2 of Fig. 1 and looking in the direction of the arrows;
Fig. 3 is a sectional view in elevation illustrating apparatus for measuring the contact angle of an air-water interface with a surface of a contact lens; and
Fig. 4 is an enlarged view illustrating the contact angle.

25

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

30

Figs. 1 and 2 show a contact lens 10 made in accordance with the invention. The lens 10 comprises an inner surface 12 ("base curve") that makes contact with the eyeball of the wearer so that it covers at least the pupil and an outer surface 14 that is intermittently wiped or covered by the eyelid. The lens 10 is curved to conform substantially to the shape of the portion of the eyeball covered by the lens and may be thicker at the center than at the edges ("convex"), as shown, to improve vision at close distances or thicker at the edges than at the center ("concave") to improve vision at long distances. If the lens is hard and formed with spherical surfaces, it automatically corrects for astigmatism as well as nearsightedness or farsightedness to the extent that the astigmatism is due to nonspherical curvature of the front of the eyeball.

35

Fig. 3 shows apparatus 16 for measuring the contact angle of an air-water interface with a surface of a contact lens. In this case, the lens 10 is submerged in water (or preferably normal saline) 18 contained in a vessel 20, and an air bubble 22 is introduced by a syringe 24 provided with a long, curved needle 26 so that the air bubble 22 is trapped below the lower surface 14 of the lens. It is also possible to place a drop of water (or preferably normal saline) on a lens in air, and to measure the contact angle through the drop of water. The method illustrated is preferred, however, since it measures the contact angle of the lens when the lens is hydrated and therefore more nearly duplicates the conditions that prevail when the lens is in place in the eye.

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In either case, an air-water interface 28 forms a contact angle A (Fig. 4) with the lens surface. The contact angle A is measured through the water or normal saline 18 and is defined by tangents T1 and T2 to the air bubble 22 and to the surface 14 of the lens, respectively. The tangents T1 and T2 are taken at the intersection of the air bubble 22 and the surface 14 of the lens. If the angle A is large, for example 60° or more, it indicates that the surface is relatively hydrophobic, like a waxed finish of a car on which raindrops form into beads. A contact lens having a hydrophobic surface is uncomfortable for the wearer. On the other hand, if the contact angle A is small, for example 25° or less, it indicates that the surface is relatively hydrophilic. A contact lens having a hydrophilic surface is much more comfortable for the wearer.

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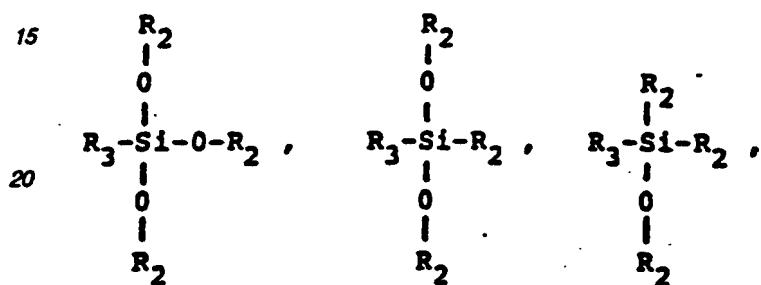
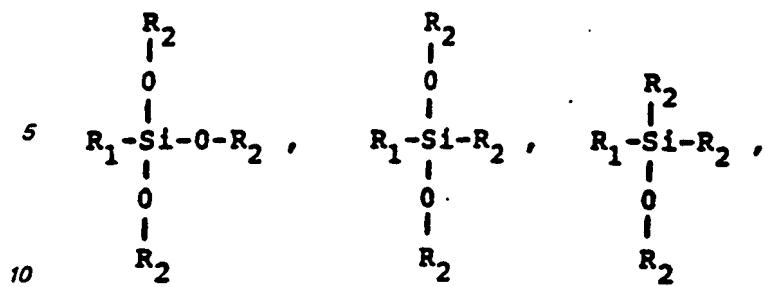
In accordance with the invention, a plastic material for making a contact lens is prepared by forming a mixture comprising 0% to 30% by weight of a hydrophilic agent, 0.1% to 5% by weight of a cross linker, 0.05% to 1.0% by weight of a polymerization initiator, and 2% to 94.85% by weight of at least one polymerizable silicone monomer selected from the group consisting of

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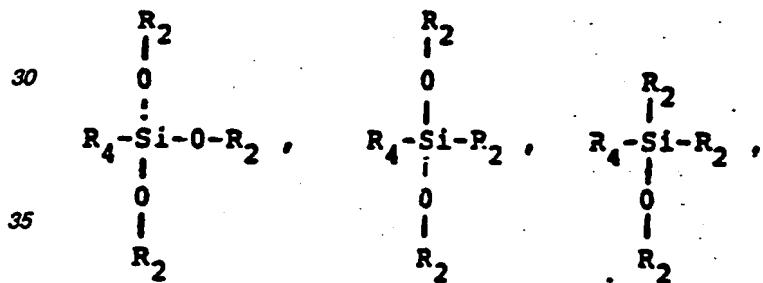
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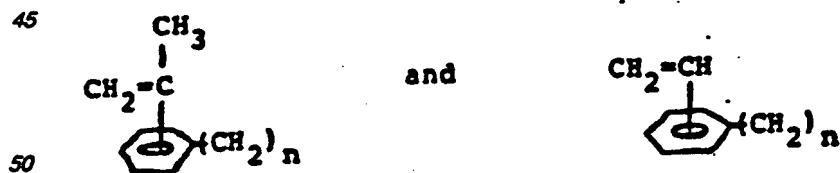


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and mixtures thereof, where
 R_1 is selected from the group consisting of



when $n = 1$ to 6 , and mixtures thereof,
 R_2 is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a saturated
 55 cyclic group and a benzene ring, and mixtures thereof,
 R_3 is selected from the group consisting of



65

where n = 1 to 6, and mixtures thereof, and
R₄ is selected from the group consisting of



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where n = 1 to 6, and mixtures thereof; and
supplying energy to the mixture so that the mixture polymerizes to form a polymer that is transparent, hard, machinable and oxygen permeable.

Energy is supplied to the mixture so that the mixture polymerizes to form a polymer that is transparent, hard, machinable and oxygen permeable. The polymerization temperature is within a range of 30°C to 70°C. The time for polymerization to be completed using heat energy ranges from 48 hours (at 30°C) to 30 minutes (at 70°C). Polymerization may be completed at room temperature in 30 minutes to one hour using ultraviolet radiation.

The polymerizable material is preferably m,p-styrylethyltrimethoxysilane or S1588, and the cross linker is preferably ethyleneglycoldimethacrylate or EGDMA.

The polymerization initiator is selected from the group consisting essentially of 2,2'-azobis(2,4-dimethylvaleronitrile) or VAZ052, benzoinmethylether or BME, and sec-butylperoxydicarbonate or SBC. The first initiator may be used when polymerization is aided by ultraviolet or thermal radiation, the second when polymerization is aided by ultraviolet radiation, and the third when polymerization is aided by thermal radiation. The polymerization initiator is present in the mixture in an amount ranging from 0.05% to 0.5% by weight.

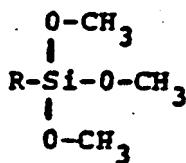
Energy is supplied in the form of thermal energy or in the form of ultraviolet radiation, as may be appropriate in view of the initiator employed.

Preferably the mixture comprises substantially 50% by weight of 3-methacryloxypropyltrimethoxysilane or OTC1, substantially 8% by weight of methacrylic acid or MA, substantially 7% by weight of cyclohexylmethacrylate or CHMA, substantially 5% by weight of 2-hydroxypropylmethacrylate or 2-HPMA, substantially 15% by weight of m,p-styrylethyltrimethoxysilane or S1588, substantially 14% by weight of methyl methacrylate or MMA, and substantially 1% by weight of ethyleneglycoldimethacrylate or EGDMA.

The method further comprises the steps of forming the polymer into a contact lens and treating a surface of the contact lens with a chemical to reduce the contact angle of an air-water interface with the surface of the lens. The chemical is preferably selected from the group consisting essentially of NaOH, AcCl, and H₂SO₄.

Thus the polymer for making the contact lens comprises the same constituents in the same proportions as the mixture described above. The resulting lens also comprises the same materials in the same proportions.

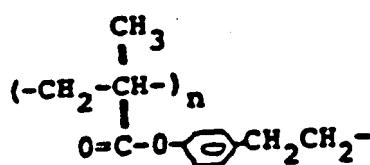
Before the treatment to hydrophilize the surfaces of the lens, the polymer in one embodiment of the invention (employing S1588) may be represented as



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where R is

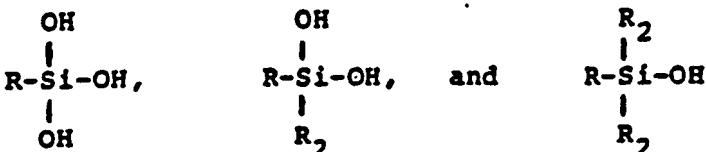


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Treatment with 5% by weight H₂SO₄ in 95% by weight of H₂O for one hour yields a mixture of

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10 on the surfaces of the contact lens and evolves CH_4 as a gas. The resulting lens has a shore hardness (D scale) within the range of 80 to 90. Oxygen permeability in $\text{ml cm/cm}^2 \text{ sec cmHg} \times 10^{-10}$ is shown in the second two columns of Table I (normal eye temperature is about 35°C).

15

TABLE I

| | | <u>lens center</u> | <u>thickness (mm)</u> | <u>25°C</u> | <u>35°C</u> |
|----|------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 20 | .125 | | | 40.9 | 51.8 |
| | .157 | | | 43.5 | 57.7 |
| | .215 | | | 45.0 | 60.2 |
| | .295 | | | 47.1 | 64.4 |

25

Contact angle is shown in Table 2.

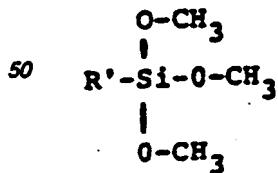
TABLE II

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| 35 | <u>Before surface treatment</u> | <u>In saline for 48 hrs</u> | <u>After surface treatment with 2N NaOH for 20 minutes and saline for 48 hrs</u> | <u>After surface treatment with 25% AcCl for 20 minutes</u> |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| | | | $31^\circ - 60^\circ$ | $11^\circ - 65^\circ$ |
| 40 | | | $12^\circ - 25^\circ$ | 15° |

Light transmission is 97+%, specific gravity is about 1.09, and refractive index is about 1.47.

45 Before the treatment to hydrophilize the surfaces of the lens, the polymer in another embodiment of the invention (employing T3633) may be represented as

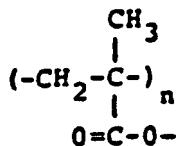


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where R' is

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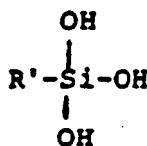
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Treatment with 5% by weight H_2SO_4 in 95% by weight of H_2O for one hour yields:

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on the surfaces of the contact lens and evolves CH_4 as a gas. The resulting lens has a shore hardness (D scale) within the range of 80 to 90. Oxygen permeability and contact angle are close to the values set forth in Tables I and II for lenses made from a polymer employing S1588. Light transmission is 97 + %, specific gravity about 1.09, and refractive index is about 1.47. The material is however more brittle than that made with S1588.

20

Example I

25

The following are mixed at 70°C in a 100 ml beaker:

3-methacryloxypropyltrimethylsiloxane or OTCl 5.0 grams
 methacrylic acid or MA .8 grams
 cyclohexylmethacrylate or CHMA .7 grams
 2-hydroxypropylmethacrylate or 2-HPMA .5 grams
 m,p-styrylethyltrimethoxysilane or S1588 1.5 grams
 methyl methacrylate or MMA 1.4 grams
 ethyleneglycoldimethacrylate or EGDMA .1 grams

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The ethyleneglycoldimethacrylate or EGDMA serves as a cross linker. As an initiator 0.02 grams of 2,2'-azobis(2,4-dimethylvaleronitrile) or VAZ052 is added to the mixture, and the mixture while at room temperature is subjected to ultraviolet radiation from a 20-watt ultraviolet lamp placed at a distance of approximately 20 cm from the mixture. The mixture polymerizes within 30 minutes to form a hard polymer. The polymer is easily cut to the shape of a contact lens having a center thickness of 0.2mm or less and polished. The lens is highly transparent and has uniform optical properties. It has an oxygen permeability of 58.6×10^{-10} ml cm/cm² sec cmHg at 35°C . The lens is subjected to a surface treatment with 25% AcCl for 20 minutes and is found to have a contact angle of 8°.

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The following examples are similar to Example I but illustrate variations of the materials and the quantities thereof employed.

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Example II

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OTCl 32 grams
 MA 4 grams
 2-HPMA 2.6 grams
 T-3633 10 grams
 EDGMA 1.42 grams
 azobisisobutyronitrile or AIBN 0.3 grams

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Example III

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OTCl 3.08 grams
 MA 0.39 grams
 CHMA 0.34 grams
 2-HPMA 0.24 grams

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S-1588 1.00 grams
AIBN 0.03 grams

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Example IV

OTCI 2.9 grams
MA 0.4 grams
CHMA 0.35 grams
10 2-HPMA 0.25 grams
S-1588 0.53 grams
T-3633 0.51 grams
EGDMA 0.10 grams
AIBN 0.03 grams

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Example V

OTCI 2.9 grams
20 MA 0.4 grams
CHMA 0.35 grams
2-HPMA 0.25 grams
S-1588 0.25 grams
T-3633 0.75 grams
25 EGDMA 0.10 grams
AIBN 0.03 grams

30

OTCI 2.5 grams
MA 0.4 grams
2-HPMA 0.25 grams
MMA 0.75 grams
35 S-1588 0.26 grams
T-3633 0.75 grams
EGDMA 0.10 grams
AIBN 0.03 grams

40

Example VI

OTCI 2.5 grams
MA 0.39 grams
45 CHMA 0.35 grams
2-HPMA 0.25 grams
MMA 0.70 grams
S-1588 0.75 grams
EGDMA 0.05 grams
50 AIBN 0.03 grams

Example VII

55 OTCI 2.50 grams
MA 0.40 grams
CHMA 0.35 grams
Isoborylmethacrylate 0.70 grams
S-1588 0.75 grams
60 EGDMA 0.05 grams
2-HPMA 0.25 grams
AIBN 0.03 grams

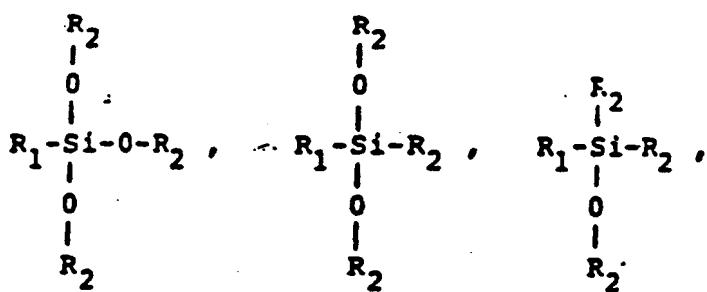
Thus there is provided in accordance with the invention a novel, disposable, extended-wear, oxygen-permeable, hydrophilic, inexpensive, hard contact lens and a method and easily machinable material for its manufacture. Many modifications of the preferred embodiments of the invention disclosed above will

readily occur to those skilled in the art upon consideration of this disclosure. For example, initiators and surface-treatment chemicals other than the ones disclosed may be employed, the contact lens may be tinted or clear, the temperatures and times of polymerization may vary, etc. Accordingly, the invention is not limited except by the appended claims.

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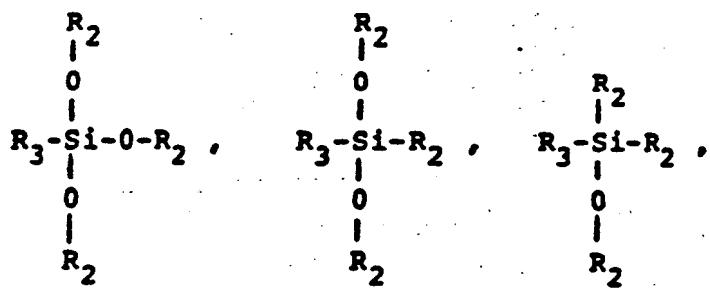
Claims

10 1. A method of making a plastic material for a contact lens characterized in that mixture is formed comprising a polymerization initiator, a cross-linker and at least one polymerizable silicone monomer selected from the group consisting of



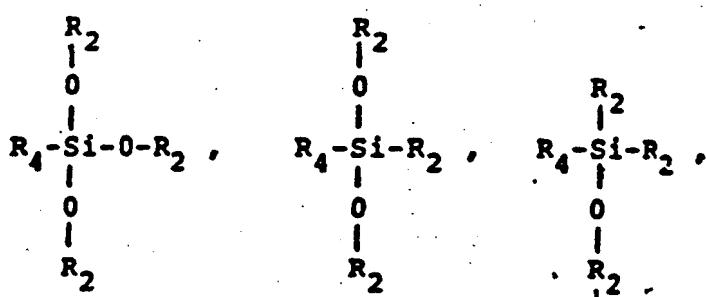
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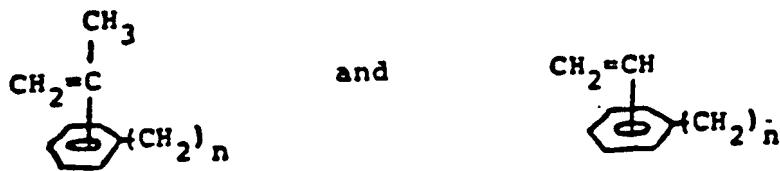
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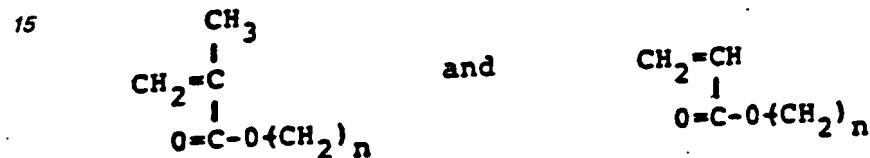
and mixtures thereof, where
R₁ is selected from the group consisting of

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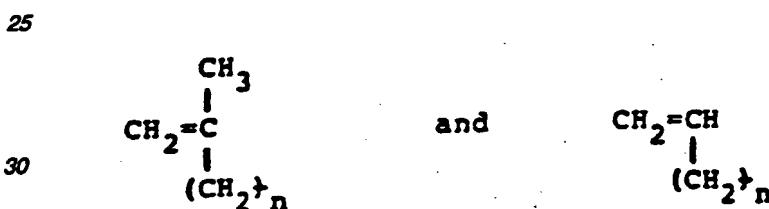
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where $n = 1$ to 6 , and mixtures thereof,
 R_2 is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a saturated cyclic group and a benzene ring, and mixtures thereof,
 R_3 is selected from the group consisting of



where $n = 1$ to 6 , and mixtures thereof, and
 R_4 is selected from the group consisting of



energy is supplied to said mixture so that said mixture polymerizes to form a polymer that is transparent, hard, machinable and oxygen permeable.

35 2. A method according to claim 1 characterized in that said polymerizable silicone monomer is p-styrylethyltrimethoxysilane.

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 characterized in that said cross linker is selected from the group consisting of ethyleneglycoldimethacrylate,

40 diethyleneglycoldimethacrylate,

triethyleneglycoldimethacrylate,

tetraethyleneglycoldimethacrylate,

silicone containing cross linkers, and mixtures thereof.

45 4. A method according to claim 3 characterized that said silicone containing linkers are selected from the group consisting of 1,2-bis(3-methacryloxypropyl) tetrakis (trimethylsiloxy)disiloxane, bis(3-methacryloxypropyl) tetramethyldisiloxane, and mixtures thereof.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 characterized in that said polymerization initiator is selected from the group consisting essentially of 2,2'-azobis (2,4-dimethylvaleronitrile), benzoin-methylether and sec-butylperoxydicarbonate.

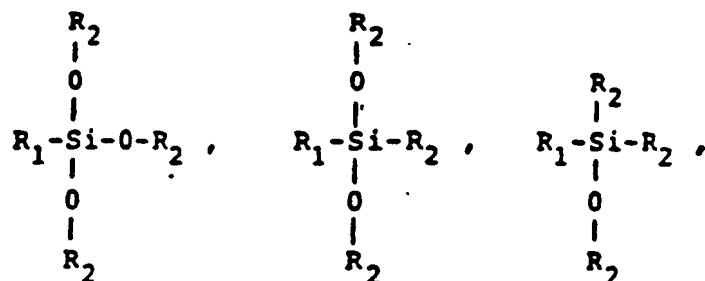
50 6. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 characterized in that said energy is supplied as thermal energy.

7. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5 characterized in that said energy is supplied as ultraviolet radiation.

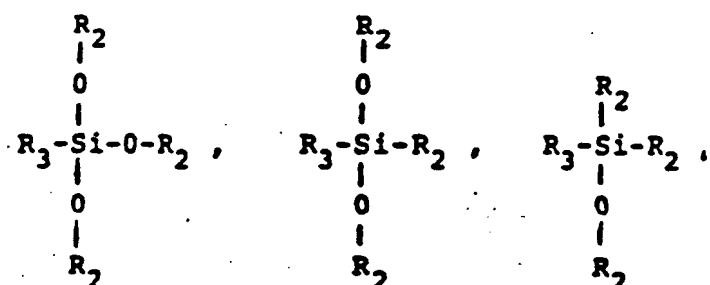
8. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 7 characterised in that said polymer is formed into a contact lens and a surface of said contact lens is treated with a chemical to reduce the contact angle of said surface.

9. A method according to claim 8 characterized in that said chemical is selected from the group consisting of NaOH, AcCl and H₂SO₄.

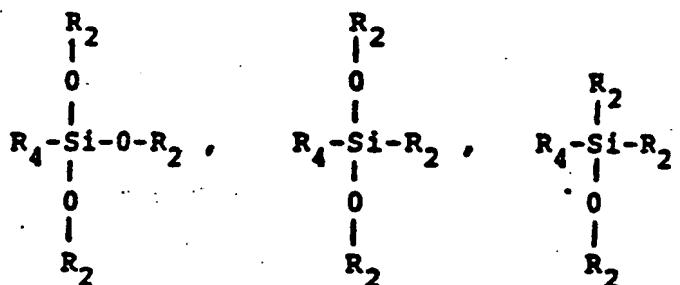
60 10. A polymer for making a contact lens characterized in that it comprises 0% to 30% by weight of a hydrophilic agent, 0.1% to 5% by weight of a cross linker, 0.05% to 1% by weight of a polymerization initiator, and 2% to 94.85% by weight of at least one polymerizable silicone monomer selected from the group consisting of



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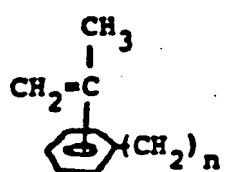
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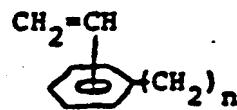
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and mixtures thereof, where
 R₁ is selected from the group consisting of



and



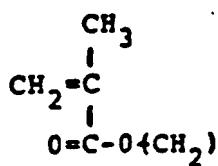
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where n = 1 to 6, and mixtures thereof,

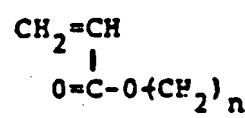
R₂ is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, a saturated cyclic group and a benzene ring, and mixtures thereof,

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R₃ is selected from the group consisting of

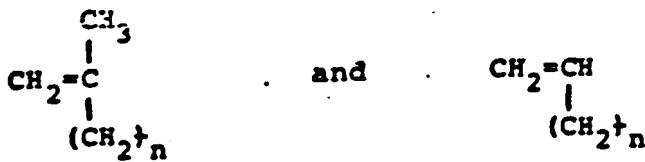


and



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where n = 1 to 6, and mixtures thereof, and
 R₄ is selected from the group consisting of



10

where n = 1 to 6, and mixtures thereof,

and in that said polymer is transparent, hard, machinable and oxygen permeable.

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11. A polymer according to claim 10 characterized in that said polymerizable monomer is p-styrylethyltrimethoxysilane.

12. A polymer according to claim 10 or 11 characterized in that said cross linker is selected from the group consisting of ethyleneglycoldimethacrylate,
 diethyleneglycoldimethacrylate,

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triethyleneglycoldimethacrylate,
 tetraethyleneglycoldimethacrylate, silicone containing cross liners, and mixtures thereof.

13. A contact lens characterized in that it is made of a polymer according to claim 10, 11 or 12.

14. A contact lens according to claim 13 characterized in that it has a surface that is hydrophilic to such a degree that the contact angle of an air-water interface with said surface is less than 25 degrees.

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15. A contact lens according to claim 14 characterized in that said angle is substantially 8 degrees.

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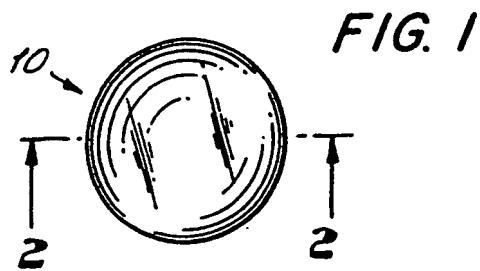
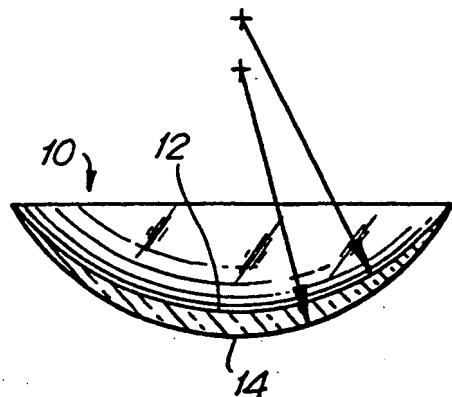
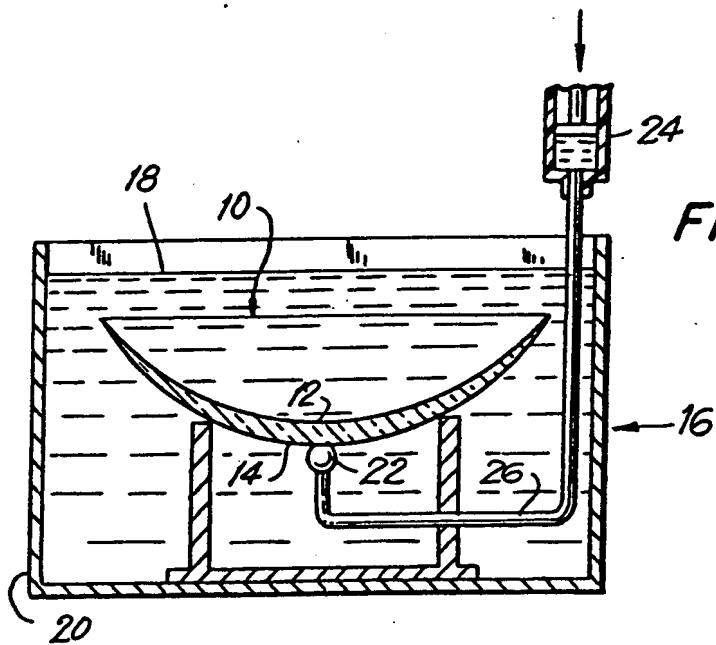
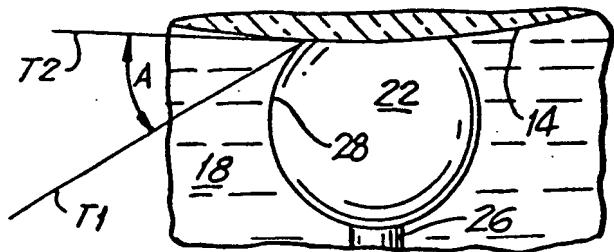
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*FIG. 2**FIG. 3**FIG. 4*



| EINSCHLÄGIGE DOKUMENTE | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|
| Kategorie | Kennzeichnung des Dokuments mit Angabe, soweit erforderlich, der maßgeblichen Teile | Betritt Anspruch | KLASSIFIKATION DER ANMELDUNG (Int. Cl.4) |
| A | US-A-2 557 326 (S.B. TUWINER) * Spalte 7, Zeilen 33-46 * | 1 | C 01 G 9/06 |
| A,D | US-A-1 922 902 (E.A. TAYLOR) --- | | |
| A | NOVEAU TRAITE DE CHIMIE MINERALE, P. PASCAL, Tome V, Masson & Cie, 1962 * Seiten 247-248 * | 1 | |
| | | | |
| RECHERCHIERTE SACHGEBIETE (Int. Cl.4) | | | |
| C 01 G | | | |
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| Der vorliegende Recherchenbericht wurde für alle Patentansprüche erstellt | | | |
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